

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 190532Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5099

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1116

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: VN, AS, PFOR

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING VIET-NAM

1. SEVERAL ASPECTS OF VIET-NAM ISSUE ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION IN AUSTRALIA IN PAST TWO DAYS.

2. ON PRG REPRESENTATION, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 18, WAS ASKED IF GOA HAD RECEIVED APPLICATION FROM PRG FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF QTE ANY SORT OF AN OFFICE END QTE IN AUSTRALIA. WHITLAM REPLIED THAT NO APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND CONFIRMED THAT INITIATIVE RESTED WITH PRG. AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS OF PRG SET UP TENT FEB 19 OPPOSITE PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN CANBERRA. NO VIETNAMESE IN SIGHT. TENT PEOPLE ARE HANDING OUT PRO-PRG PAMPHLETS.

3. EARLIER ON FEB 18 WHITLAM WAS ASKED WHY HE HAD TOLD LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN TERRIGAL HE HOPED GVN WOULD BE OUSTED BEFORE NEXT FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF LABOR PARTY AND WHY, THEREFORE, HE WAS ENCOURAGING QTE MASSIVE INVASION

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AND AGGRESSION BY THE NORTH AGAINST THE SOUTH IN DEFIANCE

OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS WHICH HE WELCOMED SO FULSOMELY
TWO YEARS AGO END QTE.

4. IN REPLY, WHITLAM STATED QTE MY CONCERN IN SOUTH VIET-
NAM IS TO ASK THE REGIME WITH WHICH WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC RE-
LATIONS TO HONOR THOSE AGREEMENTS. IT HAS CONSPICUOUSLY
FAILED TO DO SO. MY ONLY INTEREST IS THAT THE REGIME WITH
WHICH WE HAVE RELATIONS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM SHOULD DO ITS PART,
UNDERTAKEN NOW OVER TWO YEARS AGO, TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO
HOSTILITIES THERE. IT HAS NOT PLAYED ITS PART AND WE HAVE
TOLD IT SO. END QTE.

5. COMMENT: WHITLAM HAS, OF COURSE, GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED
NATURE OF OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN PARIS AGREEMENT, WHICH
WAS SIGNED BY FOUR PARTIES. TO LAY BLAME FOR CONTINUING HOS-
TILITIES ON GVN, AS WHITLAM HAS IN EFFECT DONE, SIMPLY IGNORES
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM. POSSIBLE THAT WHITLAM IS ENGAGED
IN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR ULTIMATE RECOGNITION OF PRG, ON BASIS
THAT GVN IS NOT REPECTING PARIS AGREEMENT. WHITLAM CLEARLY
HINTED AT TERRIGAL THAT TIMING OF RECOGNITION OF INSURGENT
REGIME REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, PROCEEDING FROM IN-
FORMAL CONTACTS TO CONTACTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO
FORMAL RECOGNITION.

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